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VOL. 102 FEBRUARY, 1953 (First Issue Aug. 1, 1851) NO. 2

ARE THEY HEARING US?

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

Communication of the Gospel is still, as ever, the chief burden of the Christian Church. When the Missions Council at the Midwinter Meeting in Cleveland in January considered as its theme the question, "Is Anybody Listening?" there was wide relevance in applying the question to every department and aspect of Our Christian World Mission.

No less relevant is our asking this question in each local church. The national boards and agencies through speakers, literature, audio-visual aids and other media have been trying to reach through the ears and eyes of our people to their minds, and thus help the local church do its work better. Are people listening to us?

The answer of the Missions Council that there is real evidence that some are listening. Orders for literature, use of films, requests for speakers are indices of effective communication. What about the local church? Are increasing numbers hearing the challenge of Christ and His Church? Having eyes and ears, do people hear and see not?

Evidence that people are listening is found in the annual reports gathered for the Year Book. Our churches are growing, attendance nearly everywhere is up, as are church school enrollments and other obvious tests, such as increased financial support. I have attended as many annual meetings of local churches as possible, and each one left me with solid impressions of vitality. For example, there was the meeting when members spontaneously arose and gave personal witness of what the local church had come to mean in their lives. I heard two laymen "preach" two-minute sermons that left no doubt that some one was effectively communicating the Gospel—and some were truly listening.

Here is a question each church ought to ask again and again, "Is anybody Listening?" At least seven of our Conference churches are planning to relocate their buildings because they have determined that the message of the church will receive a wider hearing at another place in a neighborhood of homes.

I am impressed with other ways our churches are improving their communication. Two services on Sunday morning instead of one invariably increases the number who will come and worship and listen. Weekly or monthly parish papers which reach my desk now in most instances that careful, thoughtful attention is devoted to informing all the people of a parish about what goes on in the total life of the parish. More churches are using Pilgrim Series material to reach more people effectively.

Lent and Eastertide find more people ready to hear and to change and to make new decisions for Christ than at any other season of the year. Let us improve every means of communication; let us fill these means with deeper content, the whole gospel; let us persuade more and more people to listen.

Wm David Pratt

Mrs. Buckham Elected National President

It is with great pleasure and pride that we announce the election of Mrs. W. Bayard Buckham of Oakland as president of the National Fellowship of Congregational Christian Women. The election took place at a meeting of the Womens' Fellowship State Presidents held in Cleveland in conjunction with the midwinter meeting of the Missions Council. By this election Mrs. Buckham becomes the leader of some 700,000 Congregational Christian women throughout America.

Characterized by a devotion to useful service, Mrs. Buckham recently finished a term as president of the Federation of Congregational Christian Women of Northern California.

For ten years Mrs. Buckham, who studied at the Pacific School of Religion, was superintendent of the junior department of the First Congregational Church of Berkeley, and for quite a while served on the State Christian Education Committee of the Conference.

There seems to be no limit to Mrs. Buckham's talents, but her qualities of leadership and administrative ability uniquely fit her for this high position.

1952 Record of Giving

The old year is history and the record of Our Christian World Mission for 1952 is emerging from the financial books of the Conference and reports from the national boards and agencies. Once again the total giving for the year was an increase over the year before. Here is the summary as revealed by our treasurer from reports in hand:

To the American Board (Foreign Missions)	**$20,219.88**
To the Board of Home Missions and the Council for Social Action	**21,235.63**
To Relief and Reconstruction	**11,814.77**
To the State Conference, State Home Missions and Ministerial Relief	**56,392.44**
To Our Christian World Mission through the Conference treasury	**109,662.72**
Corresponding figure for 1951	**104,309.72**

The 1952 gain: $5,353.00 or 5.1%

Our Christian World Mission represents Christ's activity on earth as done by Congregationalists. It embraces the total mission of our churches as they unite in making His work more effective. The above figures, of course, do not represent the total benevolence work of our 103 Northern California Conference churches. Much was done by our churches in local benevolences, support of special projects not included in the budgdet of Our Christian World Mission.

To the above figures should be added the direct gifts from churches and individuals sent to New York or Boston. These direct gifts reported to us from the Missions Council amount to $10,467, making a grand total of $120,130, or a gain over the corresponding figure of last year of 8.0%. The national gain for 1952 over 1951 was 5.7%.

The German churches gave to Our Christian World Mission through their national treasury $2,356. The Christmas Fund credited us with $1,977. All our giving in 1952 to Our Christian World Mission totaled $124,464.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Christians of America will cooperate again this year in a united program of aid for the relief, reconstruction and rehabilitation of needy areas of the world. March 8 will climax the efforts when many churches will take special offerings for this work.

The world needs continue to grow. There are still millions of refugees and they desperately need our Christian ministrations. A gift to the One Great Hour of Sharing, as a sacrificial Lenten offering, will be directed to Korean relief, Germany, Italy, the Near East, Greece, Japan, and India. This is a part of Our Christian World Mission.

$40 will run a school in Lebanon for 160 Arab children for a week.

$25 provides scholarship help to support one student at College Cevenol for one month.

$15 buys a suit of clothes for a Japanese pastor.

$5 gives a glass of milk a day for 8 refugee children for a month.

$2 ships 24 pounds of clothing overseas.

$1.25 will supply vitamins for a refugee child or adult for 50 days.

$1 will provide enough rice to give 9 Koreans a serving a day for two weeks.

MORE BUILDING LOAN FUND GOALS ACCEPTED

An estimated 50 million increase in population between 1940 and 1960 calls for 10,000 new Protestant churches.

Business and industry are building now to care for the needs of the increasing millions. Housing units are springing up everywhere.

Now is the time to build churches.

Our Northern California Conference has the following churches on the national Honor Roll—meaning that these churches have already sent in their Declarations of Purpose:

Antioch	$ 2,143.00
Berkeley, Chinese	547.00
Berkeley, First	10,60 .00
Berkeley, North	1,785.00
Biola	1,500.00
Campbell	1,364.00
Cedarville, Community	507.00
Concord, Hillcrest	505.00
Eagleville	255.00
El Cerrito, Mira Vista	556.00
Eureka	1,722.00
Fairfax	1,096.00
Fowler, First Armenian	545.00
Hayward, Eden	5,400.00
Lodi, First	1,965.00
Loomis	1,103.00
Martinez	3,000.00
Oakland, First	6,000.00
Oakland, New Pilgrim	1,070.00
Oroville	1,988.00
Palo Alto	1,000.00
Paradise, Craig Memorial	1,800.00
Petaluma	1,745.00
Porterville	1,980.00
Ripon	502.00
Sacramento, First	7,350.00
Sacramento, Oak Park	462.00
Sacramento, Sierra Arden	1,500.00
San Carlos	3,406.00
San Francisco, Chinese	510.00
San Francisco, First	6,000.00
San Francisco, Pilgrim	1,042.00
San Jose, Church of the Valley	200.00
San Jose, First	2,384.00
Sebastopol	1,515.00
Sunol	600.00
Sonoma	351.00
Tulare	1,550.00
Weaverville	591.00

Progress is being made, but the complete success of the Church Building Loan Fund campaign will depend on the enthusiastic response of all our churches.

Names of churches will be published as their "Declarations of Purpose" are received.

Bay Association Meeting

The Bay Association of our Conference meets Tuesday, February 24, at North Congregational Church, Cedar and Walnut Streets, Berkeley. The Rev. Homer A. Schwarz is the moderator, and Mr. Carvel S. Caine vice-moderator.

The program will be as follows:

3:30 p.m.—Women's Fellowship Program, Mrs. William E. McCormack presiding.

4:00—Worship Service, led by the Rev. Francis P. Randall.

4:45—Address, Rev. William David Pratt.

5:15—General Business Session; Election of Officers.

6:30—Dinner in Fellowship Center. Report on Building Loan Fund by Rev. Richard C. Norberg.

7:30—North Church Choir, Gertrude K. Yost directing.

7:45—Address, "A Layman Looks at the Church," Miss Elsie M. Farris.

The Pacific

Established 1851

Entered as Second Class Matter at the San Francisco Post Office

Subscriptions, 25 cents in advance

Published monthly (except July and August) by the Northern California Congregational Conference, 1164 Phelan Building, 760 Market Street, San Francisco 2, California.

Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided in Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized September 11, 1937.

Address all communications and checks to THE PACIFIC, 1164 Phelan Building, San Francisco 2.

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Pastoral Changes

After nearly 15 years of happy and fruitful service at First Church, San Jose, the Rev. Stephen C. Peabody has resigned, effective June 30, 1953. He expects to take up another pastorate after that date and has resigned because of his conviction that a younger man should lead the congregation in developing the new location to which the church has decided to move.

The Rev. Walter W. Hanne is leaving Reno, Federated, on March 1, after a pastorate of two years, to undertake a new church in Las Vegas, Nevada, for the Presbyterian Board of National Missions.

The Rev. Mary McKee Chester has resigned as pastor of the Sierra Arden Church of Sacramento. Her husband, the Rev. Joseph Chester, has been called to the pastorate of the Riverton Methodist Church of Seattle, Washington, and began his new work February 1. The Rev. Mrs. Chester will share pastoral duties with her husband in the new field. She was the founding pastor of the Sierra Arden Church and leaves after seven years in which she organized and developed the church to a membership of 350, a church school with an enrollment of 300, two youth groups, couples club of 50 couples, and a church building valued at $75,000.

Moderator Visits Northern California

Robert Cashman, moderator of the General Council of Congregational Christian Churches, will visit Northern California, March 2-9, in the specific interest of the Church Building Loan Fund Campaign.

He is scheduled for only three public addresses in the area, in order that he may be free to present the challenge of the Building Loan Fund to individuals.

This is Mr. Cashman's first official visit to the Conference as Moderator. He is well known to many ministers as the author of the books, "Business Administration of a Church" and "The Finances of a Church." For 29 years he has been business manager of the Chicago Theological Seminary. At the General Council in Claremont last June, he was elected national moderator for the biennium.

YOU WILL BE INTERESTED TO KNOW THAT—

The following radio stations will carry the "One Great Hour of Sharing" program during the weeks of February 2, 9, 23, and March 2: Alturas, KCNO; Berkeley, KRE; Chico, KXOC; Fort Bragg, KDAC; Modesto, KBOX; Petaluma, KAFP; Pittsburg, KECC; Redding, KVCV. The programs are entitled, "Let There Be Light."

Japan International Christian University now has an active student program on the 365-acre campus during the year, and there are 32 faculty members (including the famous theologian, Professor Emil Brunner). Word has just been received that the Japanese government has granted ICU its official Charter.

Dr. Stanley U. North will be the Dean of the 1953 Western Pastors' School at La Foret. The dates are July 8 to August 5 at La Foret, Colorado Springs, Colo. On the faculty are Allen Wehrli, Wilhelm Pauck, Vernon Loescher, Grace Storms, formerly of Glendale, and Emerson Hangen of First Church, Long Beach, who will teach a course on "The Care of the Parish." Henry Smith Leiper, minister of the Missions Council, will also add much to the program. The school provides a "refresher course" to ministers and means a month of intensive study and work. Each pays the first $15 toward transportation. The Board of Home Missions cares for all other expenses.

Last fall's feature film, **"More for Peace,"** was shown in 41 of our churches and some churches still plan to show it this spring. It is hoped that all of our churches will avail themselves of the privilege.

The Home Mission Study Tours for 1953 include two Southern tours, the dates for both are April 6-23, approximate cost $150; Hawaii, Japan, Philippine Island tour from San Francisco, March 10-April 9, approximate cost $1990; Human Rights Study tour in the U.S.A., June 15-July 2, approximate cost $160; annual European Seminar from New York, June 23-August 12, cost $1250. Further information can be obtained by writing the Rev. Ralph R. Shrader, 14 Beacon Street, Boston 8, Mass.

New federal legislation now permits the taxpayer, in figuring his income tax, to deduct 20 per cent of his gross income, instead of 15 per cent, for contributions to "charitable, educational, religious, and other tax-exempt organizations." Thus, of every dollar contributed to Our Christian World Mission by an individual with a net income of $4,000, Uncle Sam pays 25c.

Work camps in 15 countries offer young people an opportunity to live, work and learn the ways of others next summer. Young people who would like to witness their faith in deeds and fellowship in this challenging way may contact their minister or the Rev. Joseph Howell, 110 E. 29th Street, New York City.

The Relief and Reconstruction Fund of Our Christian World Mission is making a contribution at once for relief in Holland to help meet needs arising out of the disaster which has overtaken Western Europe, particularly the Netherlands. Any contributions for this purpose will receive apportionment credit.

Our Churches and Our Christian World Mission

In 1948, all the great causes for which Congregationalists hold themselves responsible were studied and brought together under the name of Our Christian World Mission. It was then determined that the total goal for Northern California for all missions under the apportionment should be $162,000. Each year we have been moving closer and closer to our goal—and in 1953 we look forward to yet another step forward.

The story of the total gains of the Conference in 1952 appears on page 1, but the gifts from individual churches as compared with those of 1951 are listed below:

	App't,'51	App't,'52
Alameda	$ 1,353.61	$ 1,110.09
Alturas	416.98	135.24
Angels Camp	225.70	250.00
Antioch	919.00	1,162.89
Auburn	314.19	442.75
Benicia	233.05	141.20
Berkeley, Arlington	1,100.16	1,261.07
Chinese	64.50	92.55
First	12,524.43	13,262.55
North	2,021.41	2,148.67
Northbrae	400.00	400.00
South	980.36	942.06
Biola	49.92	54.56
Campbell	1,211.05	1,190.01
Cedarville	61.05	81.10
Cloverdale	100.00	110.00
Concord, Hillcrest	428.25	344.68
Cotati	159.24	119.50
Crockett	205.80	206.44
Eagleville	96.53	75.61
El Cerrito, Mira Vista	84.75	143.25
Elk Grove	309.98	314.01
Etna	213.80	409.38
Eureka	1,379.46	1,578.94
Fairfax	295.05	466.34
Ferndale	580.77	251.55
Fowler	75.00	——
Fresno, First	3,700.69	4,045.01
Free Cross	284.44	15.00
Japanese	115.00	229.87
Pilgrim Arm.	1,017.50	1,043.00
Zion	69.60	——
Glen Ellen	60.75	25.00
Guerneville	145.08	223.35
Hayward	3,083.10	3,592.87
Kenwood	45.07	56.12
La Selva Beach	91.09	102.02
Lodi, Ebenezer	51.04	61.12
First	3,454.85	2,966.35
Loleta	34.33	33.17
Loomis	421.68	404.40
Los Gatos, Skyland	——	84.14
Martinez	2,431.34	3,104.69
Modesto	75.69	128.44
Murphys	10.00	118.00
Niles	113.57	50.00
Oakland, Beth. Arm.	60.00	60.00
First	6,519.35	6,787.48
Fruitvale	70.00	103.35
Japanese	72.00	7.00
New Pilgrim	622.06	541.48
Plymouth	3,118.52	3,087.78
Orinda	1,825.27	2,385.40
Oroville	1,293.50	1,364.00
Pacific Grove	25.00	50.00
Palo Alto	4,524.57	4,681.32
Paradise	837.50	1,011.00
Parlier	——	10.00
Penngrove	15.40	21.00
Pescadero	11.75	34.03
Petaluma	1,606.36	1,653.64
Pittsburg	661.62	740.80
Port Chicago	38.19	43.38
Porterville	3,137.50	3,161.24
Redwood City	2,120.11	2,278.21
Reedley, Finnish	10.00	——
Rio Vista	100.00	62.00
Ripon	530.38	629.18
Sacramento, First	3,475.50	3,411.51
Oak Park	——	76.41
Sierra Arden	297.50	418.60
Salida	62.74	190.14
San Carlos	2,299.58	2,394.95
San Francisco—		
Beth. Mis. Pk	373.00	224.50
Calvary Arm.	55.00	——
Chinese	75.08	66.88
First	3,493.88	3,415.88
Japanese	——	60.00
Park Presidio	805.65	1,417.58
Pilgrim	211.53	252.82
St. John's	198.48	297.35
Sanger	229.75	28.96
San Jose	2,127.10	2,067.00
San Leandro	354.35	207.30
San Lorenzo	98.35	613.25
San Mateo	5,152.56	5,429.44
San Rafael	451.74	438.41
Santa Cruz	1,276.28	1,544.05
Santa Rosa	351.38	382.45
Saratoga	924.34	1,076.48
Sebastopol	352.68	976.32
Sonoma	267.57	285.21
Soquel	172.54	256.15
Stockton	2,047.53	2,047.44
Suisun	180.10	328.70
Sunnyvale	167.78	303.23
Sunol	249.11	310.35
Tulare	1,513.75	1,884.00
Weaverville	235.75	311.47
Woodside	421.46	351.77
Reno, Nevada	721.08	980.42
Misc., including Thank Offering and individual gifts	7,458.64	5,300.46
	$104,309.72	$109,038.77

The German churches gave to Our Christian World Mission through their national treasury $2,356.

The Christmas Fund credited us with $1,977. All our giving in 1952 to Our Christian World Mission totaled $124,464.

The figures shown above opposite the names of our German churches do not include the bulk of their missionary money, which goes through the national German treasury and which is included in the following:

	1951	1952
Biola	$ 568.12	$ 349.43
Fresno, Free Cross	1,050.81	920.81
Fresno, Zion	469.20	217.06
Lodi, Ebenezer	539.09	520.26
Sanger	346.25	166.99

Is Immigration Law Fair?

"The National Council of Churches believes that the Immigration and Naturalization Law of 1952 does not establish a system of fair hearings and appeals respecting the issuance of visas and deportation proceedings. While recognizing the necessity of reasonable safeguards against the infiltration of subversive individuals, we believe such safeguards can be established without investing immigration officials and consular officials with the extraordinary powers accorded them under the McCarran-Walter Act. It is our belief that admission to and deportation from the United States are matters that should be subject to a fair and uniform review procedure.

"Pending revision of the Immigration and Naturalization Law of 1952 the National Council of Churches is prepared to support emergency legislation of a limited character. As recommended by the National Council of Churches such legislation should provide for the admission to the United States of our fair share of refugees, expellees and escapees from behind the Iron Curtain and of such displaced persons as are awaiting resettlement."

—Walter W. Van Kirk
on behalf of the National Council of Churches.

RIAL

Someone has said that "among other things Religion in American Life is a large poster on the highway. It is also a voice on the radio, a picture in the newspaper, a story in a magazine, a sign in the bus and a scene on television. It is at least one of these things in every city, town and crossroads hamlet in the country. Multiplied many thousands of times, it becomes the intensive, nationwide advertising campaign of the Religion in American Life program."

With the Religion in American Life program gradually developing into a year-round effort, a new opportunity is being offered this spring for local groups to use tie-in materials to produce greater regular attendance.

This year's theme, "SHOW THEM THE WAY—THIS WEEK" is particularly appropriate for family week observance. Sample materials are on display in the Conference office and are being made available at a 40% discount by the Religion in American Life headquarters in order to introduce these aids to local pastors. Stiff back window posters are now to be had for only five cents each.

MINISTERS AND CHURCHES ON THE JOB

SAN MATEO—The Lenten Seminars which began February 22 in First Church will provide adults a new and unusual opportunity to deepen and widen their faith during the season traditionally devoted to strengthening the spiritual life. The series will cover five Sunday evenings during Lent, February 22 to March 22, beginning with dinner at 6:30. The list of dinner speakers and seminar leaders includes Dr. Vere V. Loper, minister of Berkeley First Church; Dr. Stuart L. Anderson, president Pacific School of Religion; Dr. William McCormack, minister of San Francisco First Church; the Rev. William Pratt ,superintendent of our State Conference; the Rev. G. Arthur Casaday of Palo Alto, the Rev. Gail Cleland of Oakland, and the Rev. Benton Gaskell of San Mateo.

SAN LORENZO — The church honored its teaching staff of 96 at a special banquet recently. Dr. Ralph Hyslop, of the Pacific School of Religion, addressed the group on the theme, "The Faith of the Family." The annual Every Member Canvass succeeded in subscribing the 1953 budget of $21,386. Homer A. Schwarz is the minister.

REDWOOD CITY — The Pulpit Committee, generously aided in time and counsel by Superintendent William Pratt (who also spoke at the annual meeting), has been diligently seeking a new pastor, the Rev. Gale W. Engle having resigned at the New Year. The interim pastor is the Rev. Melvin E. Pratt of Palo Alto. Attendance has been good and church spirit high. Construction of a church unit on the new site is planned to begin after the rains. The Women's Fellowship are finding many ingenious methods of increasing their "talent dollars." A fine worship service was given on Sunday morning, January 25, by the Pilgrim Fellowship and young people of the church, who took care of all greetings, choir numbers, readings and the sermon.

PORTERVILLE — At its sixty-first annual meeting, the church adopted a "balanced budget" including its quota on "Building Loan" campaign and an increase in the salary of the pastor, the Rev. Willis L. Goldsmith, now serving for the twelfth year. Top events for February include the Men's "Lincoln Day" dinner and the Women's "Colonial Tea" on February 21.

OAKLAND, FIRST — Another communion has been instituted for the 9:45 early morning service, alternating months with the established one at 11 o'clock. The Rev. William Pratt was guest speaker at both services on Sunday, January 18, and he preached a most inspiring sermon on "The Invitation of Christ." Ten members of First Church attended the Layman's luncheon at First Church, San Francisco. Three hundred sixteen attended the annual dinner of this church. This was the twentieth annual meeting for the pastor, Dr. Clarence Reidenbach. Plans are under way for honoring Dr. and Mrs. Reidenbach in May for their 20 years of service.

FRESNO — Construction is under way on our $80,000 fellowship hall. Contracts have been signed for the six remaining sanctuary windows at $1250 each, four having already been given as memorials. Drapes are being placed in six large department rooms for decoration and darkout purposes for visual education. The church is working toward completion of buildings and furnishings by October 23, 1953, which will be the seventieth birthday of the church.

LA SELVA BEACH COMMUNITY—Some 12 or 14 young people of high school age in the La Selva Beach Church meet from time to time in private homes on Sunday evenings, but now wish very much to organize as a Pilgrim Fellowship. About a year ago, an organization was started but lapsed for lack of adequate leadership. The church hopes to find leaders, and if so, will reorganize. Ten of the group attended a P.F. rally last month, held at Soquel and conducted by Mr. Lindsay. A similar rally was sponsored and held at La Selva Beach Sunday evening February 1.

ANTIOCH—One of the most important opportunities for development in the life of the church presented at the Annual Meeting was the "Shepherding Plan." It is founded on the belief that the central responsibility of the church is to care for its membership and that members find their greatest opportunity for growth in Christlikeness in expressing a friendly Christian concern for fellow members. For purposes of efficiency the parish is divided into ten shepherding groups (neighborhood areas) with 10 to 20 families in each group. Over each group a couple is appointed to serve as "undershepherds." The basic responsibility of the undershepherds is to maintain contact with each member in the shepherding group; to help in time of need; to report to the pastor when his help may be decisive; to make reports to the church office on change of address, removal from community, loss of interest in the church, arrival of new neighbors, provide for the welcoming of new neighbors, introducing them to the church and its organizations, to receive applications for full membership in the church.

SACRAMENTO, PIONEER — An exchange of pulpits took place between the Rev. Torrance Phelps, minister of Pioneer Church, Sacramento, and the Rev. G. Chilton Christian on Interracial Sunday, February 8, for the purpose of Christian brotherhood. The Rev. Mr. Christian is minister of the Community Oak Park Interracial Church. Pioneer Church began the year with unusually large Sunday attendance, with all the many organizations active. The Boards of Deacons and Deaconesses are organizing the districts with one for each district to shepherd the members. The youth societies also united February 8 with the Negro church for the evening hour.

SACRAMENTO, OAK PARK—Perhaps one of the last acts of former Superintendent Harlev H. Gill was to install the church officers on Sunday evening, January 25. He visited Sacramento before leaving for Honolulu and dropped in on us. Our minister now has a permanent address, as he moved into the parsonage January 15 and has been busy cleaning and painting — the address: 2761 Santa Clara Way.

BERKELEY, ARLINGTON—The community canvass for the support of the Community Center went over the top. The Every Member Canvass for the church was not far below the goal. The women's bazaar brought in a total of over $2,600. Landscaping is being improved, and certain walks and areas have been paved. The Rev. J. Hood Snavely, pastor, is giving a series of Advent lectures on Wednesday evenings on "The Meaning of Revelation," "The Meaning of Incarnation," and "The Meaning of Atonement."

MARTINEZ—Due to the splendid loyalty of a number of church families, and the shouldering of an extremely difficult follow-up job by about 20 canvassers, Martinez is delighted to announce that the Stewardship and Step-up drive went over the top with $1,822.50 in new and increased pledges. The church has reached another milestone with the largest membership, 521, and the largest average attendance in the morning service, 214, in the history of the church. Fifty-nine members were received into the church during the year. Professor Hugh Vernon White, always a favorite with the people of Martinez, who spent last year on a sabbatical trip to Europe, will speak at the next Church Night Dinner on March 10.

ORINDA—The results of the annual canvass to date show $18,593 subscribed to the budget. Excellent progress has been made in the Orinda Community Sunday School. The Sunday School now has an enrollment of 750, an average attendance of 475, and a teaching staff of over 50. 1952 has been the first year of the "double session." More people are being served, and more people are serving. Adult education is now a reality.

BERKELEY, NORTH—A Pilgrim Fellowship workshop was held in North Church building, Saturday, February 7, when young people from all of the east bay Congregational Christian churches took over. Sandy Craig, president of East Bay Pilgrim Fellowship, presided. George Lindsay sat in on the planning session in an advisory capacity. The program for spring and summer was planned.

LODI, FIRST—The annual meeting held January 9 was well attended. Reports show 41 new members were received in 1952, with an average increase of 26 at the Sunday morning worship service. The quarterly visits of Miss Margaret Lobb of the Pacific School of Religion have been most helpful to the leaders of the church school. The Social Action committee reported that the D. P. family brought to Lodi by the church a year ago has made remarkable progress toward self-sustaining citizenship and has repaid the money advanced by the church for their initial expenses. A recording made of the Christmas services has been played to more than 40 shut-ins.

PARADISE—The first move toward building a new sanctuary, parish house and educational building to accommodate the steadily growing congregation and Sunday School enrollment of Craig Memorial Church was taken by the members at their annual meeting recently. Facilties of the historic old Craig Church have been strained during the past year with nearly 200 families as members of the church, along with scores of others who attended its services. The new building plans will, however, preserve the picturesque "little brown church" which has marked the Pearson and Scotwood Road corner since 1909. A general solicitation of the membership will be held in March to establish a new church building fund.

HILLCREST—1952 has been an amazingly full year in the life of Hillcrest. This year has seen the completion of the Fellowship Hall, the reception of approximately 125 members, the decision to go ahead with the building of the educational unit, the raising of over $22,000 in long term building fund pledges, and an educational unit nearly completed.

CAMPBELL—1952 has been a very gratifying year in the life of Campbell Church. While growth in 1952 has not been spectacular, it has been steady and healthy. Forty-eight new members were received, bringing the reportable membership to 353. The long study regarding a site for the new church has been rewarded with the option taken on four acres of property on Budd Avenue. The following steps were outlined as logical goals for the church: (1) Continue to make such minor improvements to present church building as may be necessary while waiting for a new church. (2) Seriously set about a definite plan to pay for the new site by the fall of 1955. (3) Develop an enthusiasm that will increase membership to 500 by fall of 1955. (4) Develop Church School program so it will be the best, or equal to the best, in the area.

AUBURN—The High School Class of Auburn Church has been studying the church membership material in OUR CHURCH for almost a year in Church School. At a recent dinner, which served as a reception for members received into the church that day and for the new superintendent, nine of the young people gave a presentation of the meaning of Faith, Freedom and Fellowship in our Congregational Christian Churches. Under the direction of Mrs. Lee Bennington, the class is also experimenting with their own publication, called Hi-Class News, which they expect to be the news sheet of both the Sunday School class and the Pilgrim Fellowship.

SAN JOSE—Members are having great fun looking over the plans that have been drawn up for the renovating of the church. The board of directors is still in the process of making plans, and more will be heard from this group before long. A new floor has recently been built in the choir loft and carpet goes down next. On February 22 the music committee presented the choir from San Jose State College, one of the outstanding choral groups in the state. The February presentation was another of the already famous Sunday Evening Music Hour series which has already presented some magnificent musical evenings this winter.

OAKLAND, FRUITVALE—Beginning with the communion service on February 22, our minister, Dr. Ralph C. Waddell, began a series of sermons on the life of Jesus under the theme, "The Master of Men." Beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 18, he launched a series of religious motion pictures which will be presented each Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary, the first picture being the world famous "The King of Kings."

HAYWARD, EDEN — "The Pilgrim Bridge to Palestine," written by Miss Judith French, Christian Education Director, was presented on Ash Wednesday, to mark the beginning of the 1953 Lenten season. It portrayed the life of Jesus by colored slides, narration, music by soloists and the chancel choir, and the rhythmic drama group. A fellowship hour followed, emphasizing this as a family occasion, one which the children as well as the grown-ups enjoyed.

MIRA VISTA — In cooperation with the ladies of other churches in the Richmond area, our Women's Fellowship observed "World Day of Prayer" Friday, February 20. The service was continuous from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

WOMEN'S FEDERATION NEWS

MRS. JOHN HARRISON, Correspondent

The next regular meeting of the Federation will be held on Thursday, March 19, 1953, at the First Congregational Church, Oakland.

Members of the Federation heard reports at their January meeting on the good work being done by the Association presidents. One of the outstanding reports was made by Mrs. James Blamey of the Church of the Valley, San Jose. This group, having no church building, meets in the parsonage garage. The membership numbers 100, 86 of them never before members of any church.

Highlights of Secretaries' Reports

Good clean clothing—curtains, bulbs and seeds—anything of use in furnishing homes, was requested by Mrs. Lindsay to be sent to Mr. and Mrs. Newell Steward, Lilbourne, Missouri. The "Thrift Shop" in Lilbourne needs these gifts. They are sold at small cost to those evacuated from government homes.

Thank Offering

Mrs. Ward reported the Thank Offering amounted to $4,906.58, $311.26 less than 1951.

State Projects

Modesto and Hillcrest churches and travel allowance for our Trinity County minister have been chosen as state projects for this year.

Dates To Remember

The Bay Association meets February 24, at North Church, Berkeley. The Women's meeting at 3:30 p.m., Spring Session at Cazadero, June 1, 2, 3.

India

Money made from Sisal fiber bags often means the difference between life and starvation to the native women and girls of India. Mrs. Joseph L. Moulton, in India, writes for help in selling these bags. Our Lodi women sent $25 for bags which they sold for $200. Other groups interested may send an airform letter to Mrs. Moulton, American Marathi, Ahmedmegar, India.

Africa

Mrs. Chester Marliave proudly introduced Dr. George Thorn, who had been in her Sunday School class years ago. Dr. Thorn is a medical missionary in Africa; Mrs. Thorn is a registered nurse in charge of the hospital there.

Africa is of great importance in the world today. There has been continual change since 1926, especially in the last three years. Africa is now open, with a wealth of raw materials and markets. Modern water supplies, power plants and mills are being built. Heavy machinery is now used to build roads, work which used to be done largely by women and children who carried rocks in baskets. The Four Point Program and the United Nations are helping.

Dispensaries and dental clinics offer services that people can understand. Many ask for penicillin. They have been in war and know about modern treatment. Central Hospital has 220 beds. When a patient is brought in, a member of the family stays to cook—to learn the diet and care needed. Operations cost $10 to $15.

The first wish is for education. Everyone wants to go to school. Dr. Thorn reports the French rulers are under Communist pressure constantly, but the anti-American campaign, communist inspired, has died down. The African communal tribal system is not good soil for the growth of communism. Thousands go to France each year to study. They will be the young educated leaders of the future. French Communists meet every plane and boat arriving in France, directing the young people where to live, what to study, and inviting them to cell meetings. The Kamerun Church College has started actual training of students from several tribes. Christianity is a "new song in a strange land" at the "dawn of a new day."

We must redouble our Christian missionary work. If we wait, there will not be the chance as now to present Christianity.

Women In European Church Life

Mrs. Sanford Siegrist introduced Dr Hugh Vernon White, dean of the Pacific School of Religion, who spoke on "Women in European Church Life." Although Dr. White spent the past year in Europe, he assured us that he had made no special study on this subject, and he was only giving his impressions.

Europe not being united, women cannot work together as we do here. Women traveling as far as our groups from Sonoma would probably be out of their country and sphere of their denomination or state religion. Europe is very conscious of the tradition of limited place for women in the church. Their actions are set by traditions; the challenge which we feel is lacking. They may become nuns, deaconesses, teachers and nurses. At the World Council of Churches there were women as interpreters and secretaries, but only three official representatives.

Dr. White believes, however, that the time for the philosophy of "woman's place in the home" is past. Never underestimate the power of a woman when she is aware of a need to better the way of life of family, church or community.

Grace Towner Speaks

From Turkey, that progressive republic which has made such amazing advances during recent years, comes American educator Miss Grace Towner with an unusual background of life in the Near East. Miss Towner will be in Northern California addressing the area rallies of the Federation of Congregational Women.

Miss Towner's influence in Turkey has spread far beyond the walls of the schools in which she has taught. Indeed it has helped mould an entire generation.

When Miss Towner first reached Turkey she became principal of the American Board School for Girls at Adana and here she worked until 1933 at which time she took over the post of teacher of English literature and Associate Director of the American Academy for Girls in Scutari where she worked until her return to the U.S.A. last year.

Thank Offering

While our gift this year did not equal that of 1951, it nevertheless represents a "second-mile" gift over and above the local church missionary budget. Below we list the gifts by churches:

	1951	1952
Alameda	$ 68.00	$105.00
Alturas	21.22	14.85
Angels Camp	——	20.00
Antioch	45.21	38.70
Auburn	29.72	72.72
Benicia	21.30	46.66
Berkeley, Arlington	41.00	50.00
First	170.00	204.01
North	65.00	70.00
South	64.43	54.24
Campbell	60.81	65.00
Cedarville	6.04	——
Cloverdale	17.00	15.65
Concord, Hillcrest	——	15.00
Cotati	21.32	36.00
El Cerrito, Mira Vista	31.58	23.64
Eureka	148.54	82.30
Fairfax	15.00	22.60
Ferndale	20.00	25.00
Fowler	36.45	30.00
Fresno, First	177.05	168.93
Pilgrim Armenian	20.00	15.04
Japanese	——	17.15
Guerneville	26.19	25.82
Hayward	184.13	172.40
La Selva Beach	——	16.23
Lodi, First	131.92	71.89
Loomis	29.00	21.00
Martinez	96.00	110.64
Modesto	25.26	27.36
Murphys	——	12.36
Niles	5.00	5.00
Oakland, Bethany Arm.	5.00	5.00
First	330.17	324.76
Fruitvale	39.00	25.10
Japanese	5.00	5.00
New Pilgrim	27.60	33.16
Plymouth	198.00	150.00
Orinda	171.12	125.00
Oroville	50.00	50.00
Pacific Grove	50.00	——
Palo Alto	141.20	187.68
Paradise	62.82	50.40
Penngrove	11.85	——
Petaluma	63.20	95.10
Pittsburg	43.05	34.39
Port Chicago	21.31	6.43
Porterville	81.90	71.32
Redwood City	126.18	88.55
Rio Vista	77.60	48.55
Ripon	118.01	124.64
Sacramento, Oak Park	10.00	27.20
Pioneer	185.00	221.87
Sierra Arden	78.63	39.55
San Carlos	112.00	103.79
Salida	21.71	20.52
San Francisco—		
Calvary Armenian	23.65	21.54
First	102.58	143.39
Grace United	29.00	20.10
Pilgrim	21.17	52.25
Park Presidio	7.55	7.60
San Jose	193.60	100.00
San Leandro	163.81	132.77
San Lorenzo	45.76	55.42
San Mateo	220.77	200.00
Santa Cruz	326.36	205.78
Santa Rosa	24.85	22.00
Saratoga	133.05	73.55
Sebastopol	31.97	52.12
Sonoma	54.00	58.55
Soquel	22.06	42.58
Stockton	84.55	71.25
Sunnyvale	30.75	25.25
Sunol	15.00	20.00
Tulare	25.00	35.89
Weaverville	24.01	20.93
Woodside	30.83	52.41
	$5,217.84	$4,906.58

Speaker Available

The Rev. Bramwell C. D. Mather, Congregational minister from Ceylon, and an advanced student at Pacific School of Religion, is available as a speaker for any and every occasion. He is credentialed by the American Board and could occupy the Sunday pulpit or speak to church groups during the week.

He is supporting himself through honoraria provided, and groups should be prepared to provide as generously as possible. The Rev. Mr. Mather may be reached by writing or phoning him at the Pacific School of Religion.

Training Conference

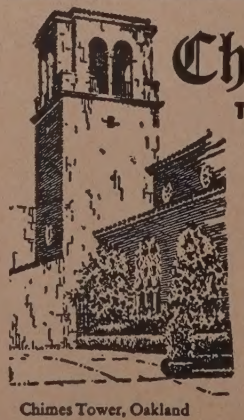
Celebrating forty years of missionary conferences on the Pacific Coast, an impressive team of national and local church leaders has been secured for the Missionary Education Movement training conference this summer at Asilomar. A time of fellowship, information and inspiration, the conference will be held July 31 to August 7.

The study theme for the ensuing year, "The Life and Work of the Church Around the World," will be presented in a series of five interpretive addresses by Dr. George M. Derbyshire, chairman of the Board of the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society and the Rev. William D. Pratt, chairman of the Commission on Mexican Work of the Congregational Christian Churches.

Conference Chaplain will be Bishop Sumner Walters of Stockton. Teaching the methods course will be Mrs. W. E. Bowyer of Glendale. Other classes will include "The Bible, a Missionary Book," led by Dr. Hugh Vernon White of Berkeley, and "Problems of International Peace" by Stephen Thiermann of San Francisco. It is anticipated that Dr. Karl Quimby of New York will be present to lead a discussion of missionary education methods.

A feature of this year's conference will be the "seminars" for the discussion in small groups of the study books under competent leaders. Dean of the conference will be Dr. Kenneth G. Hobart, professor of Missions at Berkeley Baptist Divinity School. Dr. Willis C. Lamott, who occupies a similar position at San Francisco Theological Seminary, is Missionary Education Movement president.

It is hoped that a broadly representative gathering will be secured by many Pacific Coast churches.



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